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A Catholic Education

Dionisio D. Martínez

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new lives. We knew
that it would be like this from here on.

We would dance
and dance, hoping that through friction

or obsolescence or possibly even perfect
balance we would rid ourselves

of these lives. This, at least,
was the hope that kept us dancing.

The truth was something else. We knew
that we would change partners again

and again like bums trading stolen
goods by the light of the small fire they've

made in the aisle of an abandoned Pullman.

A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Cross yourself before you go to sleep. Sleep
with your empty hands on your heart.
Pray for yourself. Pray hard. Pray like hell.
Keep your empty hands open. Tear your heart
out with your prayers. Tear the sheets.
Stare at the little shadows on the ceiling.
Don't stare at the little shadows on the ceiling.
Don't imagine anything walking out
of the little shadows in your sleep. Don't
touch anything. Keep your empty hands
clean. Keep your clean hands on your heart.
Sleep like an angel. Die in your sleep. Rise.
You have learned how to rise by now, haven't you?